

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15

NSC-05 H-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 /062 W

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O R 121727Z MAR 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7513

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2499

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, IV

SUBJECT: BILATERAL AVIATION NEGOTIATION WITH

IVORY COAST

REF: ABIDJAN 1249

1. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTOR CIVIL AERONAUTICS
SAVANE IVORIAN INTERESTS IN BILATERAL CIVAIR NEGOTIATION.
EMBASSY VIEWS OF IVORIAN POSITION FOLLOW.

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2. IVORY COAST HAS RECENTLY SIGNED BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH

MOROCCO, PAKISTAN, NIGERIA AND PROBABLY OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. SAVANE STATES THAT GOIC IS MAKING AN EFFORT TO FORMALIZE EXISTING AVIATION RELATIONSHIPS AND CERTAINLY NOT AN EFFORT TO DISADVANTAGE THE US DESIGNATED CARRIER.

3. WITH REGARD TO FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS FOR PANAM, SAVANE SUGGESTS THAT AN UNPUBLICIZED ACCORD MIGHT BE SIGNED CONTEMPORANEOUS WITH A BILATERAL AGREEMENT, AND THAT PANAM'S FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS (DEPENDENT AS THEY ARE UPON PANAM'S OPERATING IN "ASSOCIATION" WITH AIR AFRIQUE) MIGHT BE PROTECTED IN THAT WAY. ACCORDING TO SAVANE, ROYAL AIR MAROC HAS OBTAINED SIMILAR TRAFFIC RIGHTS FOR JOINT OPERATION WITH AIR AFRIQUE BETWEEN DAKAR AND ABIDJAN (THESE RIGHTS HAVE NOT BEEN EXERCISED).

4. THE IVORIAN DELEGATION DOES NOT INTEND TO REMAIN IN THE US LONGER THAN TWO WEEKS, AND IT HOPES TO COMPLETE ITS WORK EXPEDITIOUSLY. IT IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN EARLIER NEGOTIATIONS BY THE US AND SENEGALESE AUTHORITIES AND HOPES TO AVOID THEM. SAVANE IS A CAPABLE, ENERGETIC OFFICIAL, WITH AN EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND IN ELECTRONICS AND AIR NAVIGATION. HE IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE US AND FRANKLY ADMITS THAT A STUMBLING BLOCK TO CLOSER COOPERATION HAS BEEN THE UTA FINANCIAL INTEREST IN AIR AFRIQUE AND THE EXISTING MANAGEMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THOSE TWO AIRLINES (THE CONTRACT IS DUE FOR RENEGOTIATION SOON).

5. WE BELIEVE THAT ABIDJAN'S POSITION AS A DYNAMIC, GROWING COMMERCIAL CENTER AND ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION IN AFRICA MAKE A WRITTEN AGREEMENT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE EXISTING RIGHTS OF THE DESIGNATED US CARRIER A WORTHWHILE POLICY GOAL OF THE USG. THE CURRENT FAVORABLE POLITICAL CLIMATE MAKES THIS AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR THE SIGNING OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AVIATION AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ABIDJA02499
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760095-0757
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760369/aaaacigg.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ABIDJAN 1249
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BILATERAL AVIATION NEGOTIATION WITH IVORY COAST
TAGS: EAIR, IV, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006